(d) The original estimated cost of these projects was Rs. 1,57,627.6 crore. The date of estimate varies from project to project.

(e) The fresh steps initiated by the Government to fine tune the monitoring mechanism to ensure timely completion of projects include :

(i) Adoption of a two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval;

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;

(iv) setting up of Empowered Committees in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed project;

(v) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(vi) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(vii) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

These measures are expected to help minimise further cost overruns

Delay in implementation of projects

5106. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that slippages in implementing the major infrastructure project, costing over Rs. 100 crores, in sectors like roads, railways and power, have resulted in huge cost overruns, to the tune of some Rs. 18,644.25 crores, as highlighted in a recent flash report on the central sector projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, sector-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps initiated to fine-tune the monitoring mechanism to ensure timely completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SATYABARATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. This fact has been highlighted in the 208th Flash Report issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the month of February, 2003, which has been placed in the Library of the Parliament House.

(b) The constraints responsible for the overruns in the projects on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have been listed in the above mentioned Report.

(c) The steps initiated by the Government to fine tune the monitoring mechanism to ensure timely completion of projects include:

(i) Adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval;

(ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;

(iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;

(iv) setting up of Empowered Committees in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;

(v) setting up of Standing Committee in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;

(vi) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and

(vii) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

These measures are expected to help minimise further cost overruns.